

We claim:

1. A communications system comprising:
  - a local area network that comprises a plurality of wireless access points disposed about a golf course;
  - a wireless communications protocol operably supported by the plurality of wireless access points, wherein the wireless communications protocol supports:
    - automatically updating golf course infrastructure information; and
    - subscriber communications.
2. The communications system of claim 1 wherein substantially all of the plurality of wireless access points are disposed within an outer periphery of the golf course.
3. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of wireless access points are arranged and configured to provide wireless communication coverage to at least a substantial majority of the golf course.
4. The communications system of claim 3 wherein the plurality of wireless access points are further arranged and configured to provide wireless communication coverage to at least one zone that is external to the golf course.
5. The communications system of claim 4 wherein the at least one zone comprises a residential area.
6. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the golf course comprises at least a nine hole golf course.

7. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the golf course infrastructure information comprises at least one of:

- pin placement information;
- edible consumables ordering information;
- merchandise ordering information;
- score information;
- scorecard printing information.

8. The communications system of claim 7 wherein the pin placement information comprises substantially current pin placement information.

9. The communications system of claim 1 wherein automatically updating golf course infrastructure information comprises:

- automatically broadcasting pin placement information pursuant to a first broadcasting schedule when providing new pin placement information;
- automatically broadcasting pin placement information pursuant to a second broadcasting schedule when providing old pin placement information.

10. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the subscriber communications comprise packet data subscriber communications.

11. The communications system of claim 10 and further comprising a subscriber authorization server that is operably coupled to the local area network.

12. The communications system of claim 11 wherein the subscriber authorization server comprises authorization means for determining that a given subscriber is authorized to use the local area network and for permitting the given subscriber to conduct a wireless communication via the local area network.

13. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the subscriber communications comprise access to a data network.

14. The communications system of claim 13 wherein the data network comprises the Internet.

15. A method of facilitating various wireless communications proximal to a golf course, comprising:

- providing wireless communication resources for at least a substantial portion of the golf course;
- dedicating a first part, but not all, of the wireless communication resources to support golf course infrastructure communications;
- using part of the wireless communication resources to support subscriber communications.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein providing wireless communication resources for at least a substantial portion of the golf course further comprises providing wireless communication resources for at least a substantial portion of the golf course and at least a first zone that is external to the golf course.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein providing wireless communication resources for at least a substantial portion of the golf course and at least a first zone that is external to the golf course further comprises providing wireless communication resources for at least a substantial portion of the golf course and at least a first zone that is external to the golf course and that comprises a residential area.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein providing wireless communication resources further comprises providing a plurality of wireless access points.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein providing a plurality of wireless access points further comprises providing a plurality of wireless packet data access points.
20. The method of claim 15 wherein dedicating a first part, but not all, of the wireless communication resources to support golf course infrastructure communications further comprises dedicating a first part, but not all, of the wireless communication resources to support golf course infrastructure communications regarding current pin placement information.
21. The method of claim 20 wherein using part of the wireless communication resources to support subscriber communications further comprises using part of the wireless communication resources to support subscriber communications for previously authorized subscribers.
22. The method of claim 21 and further comprising assessing a usage fee to the authorized subscribers.